

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended): A method for initiating and completing a commercial transaction to allow a user to acquire an article of commerce having associated therewith a machine resolvable code (MRC), the MRC having encoded therein information relating to the article of commerce, comprising the steps of:

5 extracting the encoded information from the MRC, which step of extracting initiates a commercial transaction;

storing the encoded information from the MRC in a temporary buffer;

associating with the step of extracting unique identification information associated with the user that allows a retail processing system to uniquely identify the user; and

10 after the step of extracting and storing;

transferring to the retail processing system the extracted encoded information from the MRC and the unique identification information associated with the step of extracting; and

15 in response to the step of extracting, the step of transferring and the retail processing system receiving the encoded information from the MRC and the transferred unique identification information, transferring ownership of the article of commerce to the user to complete the transaction.

2. (Original): The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of extracting the encoded information from the MRC comprises the step of scanning the MRC with a scanner.

3. (Previously Amended): The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of extracting the encoded information from the MRC comprises the step of scanning a bar code.

4. (Previously Amended): The method of Claim 3, wherein the step of scanning a bar code comprises the step of scanning a universal product code (UPC).

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5. (Original): The method of Claim 1, and further comprising the step of providing a personal scanner having a memory associated therewith to the user, the step of extracting comprising the step of scanning the MRC with the personal scanner and the step of storing comprising storing the encoded information from the scanned MRC in the memory.

6. (Original): The method of Claim 5, wherein the personal scanner has associated therewith a unique ID and the step of transferring comprises the step of transferring to the retail processing system the entire encoded information from the MRC and the unique ID, wherein the unique ID is associated with the user at the retail processing system as the unique identification information.

7. (Previously Amended): The method of Claim 6, wherein the personal scanner is a wireless scanner, and the step of transferring comprises the step of wirelessly transmitting to the retail processing system both the extracted encoded information from the MRC and the unique ID.

8. (Previously Amended): The method of Claim 6, wherein the retail processing system is operable, upon receipt of the unique ID and the extracted information from the MRC, to perform the steps of:

extracting from a lookup table user information about the user that is associated with the unique user ID, which association is created prior to the step of providing the personal scanner to the user; and completing the commercial transaction by transferring ownership of the article of commerce to the user associated with the user information.

9. (Original): The method of Claim 6, and further comprising the step of:
creating a database at the retail processing system of a user of the personal scanner such that the user is associated with the unique ID at the retail processing system prior to providing a personal scanner to the user.

10. (Original): The method of Claim 5, wherein the step of transferring occurs after the step of scanning the MRC.

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11. (Previously Amended): The method of Claim 5, wherein the step of transferring occurs after multiple ones of the MRCs have been stored in association with multiple articles of commerce, and wherein the step of transferring ownership of the article of commerce to the user comprises the step of transferring ownership of all of the articles of commerce to the user.

12. (Currently Amended): A system for initiating and completing a commercial transaction to allow a user to acquire an article of commerce, comprising:

a machine resolvable code (MRC) associated with the article of commerce, said MRC having encoded therein information relating to the article of commerce;

an extraction circuit (for extracting said encoded information from said MRC which said extraction circuit by the operation of extracting initiates a commercial transaction;)

a temporary buffer (for storing said encoded information from said MRC;)

an identification device (for associating unique identification information associated with the user with the extraction operation of said extraction circuit;)

a retail processing system (operable to receive said extracted encoded information from said MRC and said unique identification information, after said encoded information is extracted and stored;)

means for transferring said extracted encoded information from said MRC and said unique identification information to said retail processing system in response to the operation of said extraction circuit extracting said encoded information from said MRC; and

wherein, in response to said retail processing system receiving said encoded information from said MRC and said transferred unique identification information, ownership of the article of commerce is transferred to the user to complete said commercial transaction, such that the operation of extracting performed by said extracting circuit is operable to cause transfer of said extracted encoded information from said MRC and said unique identification information to said retail processing system and said retail processing system completing said commercial transaction.

13. (Previously Presented): The system of Claim 12, wherein said extraction circuit comprises a scanner and said encoded information is extracted from said MRC by scanning said MRC with said scanner.

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14. (Original): The system of Claim 12, wherein said MRC is a bar code.

15. (Original): The system of Claim 14, wherein said bar code comprises a universal product code (UPC).

16. (Previously Presented): The system of Claim 12, and further comprising a personal scanner that comprises in part said extraction circuit and said personal scanner includes a memory associated therewith that comprises in part said temporary buffer, which said personal scanner is transferrable to a user wherein said MRC is scanned with said personal scanner and said encoded information from said scanned MRC is stored in said memory.

17. (Previously Presented): The system of Claim 16, wherein said personal scanner has associated therewith a unique ID, and which said unique ID is transferred to said retail processing system by said means for transferring with said entire encoded information from said MRC, and wherein said unique ID is associated with said user at said retail processing system as said unique identification information.

18. (Previously Presented): The system of Claim 17, wherein said personal scanner is a wireless scanner and includes said means for transferring as a part thereof such that both said extracted encoded information from said MRC and said unique ID are wirelessly transmitted to said retail processing system.

19. (Original): The system of Claim 17, wherein said retail processing system is operable, upon receipt of said unique ID and said extracted information from said MRC, to extract from a lookup table user information about said user, said user information associated with said unique user ID, which association is created prior to said personal scanner being provided to said user, and then completing the commercial transaction by transferring ownership of the article of commerce to said user associated with said user information.

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20. (Previously Amended): The system of Claim 17, wherein said retail processing system further comprises a database having a record of said user of said personal scanner such that said user is associated with said unique scanner ID at said retail processing system prior to providing said personal scanner to said user.

21. (Previously Presented): The system of Claim 16, wherein said extracted encoded information from said MRC and said unique identification information are transferred after said MRC is scanned.

22. (Previously Amended): The system of Claim 16, wherein said extracted encoded information from said respective MRCs and said unique identification information are transferred after multiple ones of said MRCs have been stored in association with multiple articles of commerce, and wherein when ownership in one article of commerce is transferred to said user, ownership of all of the articles of commerce are transferred to said user.

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